

## William Berkeley Lewis to Andrew Jackson, August 13, 1833, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### MAJOR WILLIAM B. LEWIS TO JACKSON.

Washington, August 13, 1833.

*My dear Genl.* I should have written to you before now, but for the desire of being able to communicate to you, Mr. Bradys final determination with regard to the proposition of his living with you. I named to him your wishes soon after my return to this city, but he desired, before giving an answer, a few days to reflect upon the subject and consult with his wife. This morning he informs me he is afraid he cannot comply with your wishes, without making a greater sacrafise than he thinks his friends would ask. There is nothing, he says, he would not do, in reason, to oblige and serve you; but he has just been able, by economy, to fix himself up snugly to housekeeping, and to brake up now and sell his furniture at, perhaps, a great sacrafise, would be ruinous to him and his family. He has a wife and three children, and before the end of your presidential term, he thinks he may have one or two more, which would be too large a family with which to encumber an establishment like the Presidents House. But his principal objection seems to be the unwillingness of Mrs. Brady to undertake the business. In addition, he thinks neither he nor his wife has sufficient experience, particularly as it regards the furnishing and arranging the dinner table on large dining occasions, to do justice to you and the establishment. He has requested me to offer you the foregoing reasons for declining to take charge of the Presidential Mansion, and desires me, at the same time, to say that he is much gratified at this additional mark of confidence, which you have manifested, in his integrity, industry, and good management, which, he says, he will ever endeavour to merit. . . .

## Library of Congress

Every body at the Presidents house, I believe, is well; and every thing in the house, and *around* the house seems to be getting on very well. Mr. Lecky will have his ditches and reservoirs filled up in a few days, which will be a very comfortable thing. The grounds in front of the House, are getting in very good order, and they are progressing very well with those in the rear. I should like to be advised, a few days beforehand, of your return, as the Upholsterer has the House, at present, pretty much lumbered up, with carpets, curtains etc. etc.

Your horses seem to be well taken care of, and, I think, have improved in their appearance considerably, Charles, agreeably to your instru[c]tions, turns them in the lot to graze every night. Mr. Belongey informed me on my return that he had discharged one of the under cooks—indeed he has but *one* now, as the Cook is at present in Philadelphia. When you return, I think it would be well to reorganize the domestics of the House, and I would advise that as to the *number*, and arrangement of the Servants, Mr. Brady be consulted. . . . .

[P. S.] I have this moment returned, with Mary from a visit to Mrs. Serurier, who returned a few days ago from Philadelphia. She looks thin, but says she is getting well again. She has had a painful time of it, and I doubt, myself, whether she will ever recover her good looks again, altho she may recover her health. She and Mr. Serurier,<sup>1</sup> both desired to be kindly remembered to you. The latter says he has just recd. Dispatches from his government, upon the subject of the Treaty, which he hopes will be satisfactory to you. He requested me to say that he is very desirous to have a private interview with you in relation to the matter. He thinks he will be able to satisfy the American Government, that there is not only the best feelings on the part of his own, but a determination, as far as the king has the power, to act in good faith towards the United States. He says his Government assures him that there will be very little difficulty, perhaps no opposition whatever, to the appropriation at the next Session of the Deputies. I enquired of Mr. Serurier, what papers the Ministry expected to get from this country, which as it was said,

## Library of Congress

1 Louis Sérurier (1775–1860), French minister to the United States 1811–1816, and again 1831–1835.

would throw additional light upon the subject of the Treaty? He told me he did not know. No application had been made to him for papers, nor had he promised any. He seemed to be as much at a loss to know what the Ministry meant, when they spoke of getting papers from this Country, as the people of the United States themselves. The Treaty, he says, was very unpopular in consequence of a belief that more, by 10,00000 of francs, was allowed than was right, or claimed at one time by the American Minister, and he thinks the Ministry has had no other object in view but to gain time, with the hope, in the mean time, of reconciling the nation, and the Deputies, to the provisions of the Treaty. Mr. Serurier said, as neither the President nor Secretary of State was at the seat of government, he made this explanation to me with the hope I would do him the favour of communicating it to you, who he was sure would give it that consideration to which it was entitled. I have complied with his wishes, and thus ends my *diplomacy* .